

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 Previously Cancelled

1 10. (Currently Amended) A stent-graft combination comprising a tubular stent
2 having a plurality of separate and distinct hoops aligned adjacent one another along the axis of
3 said ~~hoop~~-tubular stent, each of said separate and distinct hoops comprising a plurality of
4 elongate elements, with pairs of said elongate elements meeting one another and forming
5 vertices axially pointing in a direction along the axis of the stent, wherein at least some of said
6 vertices axially abut and are individually connected to oppositely pointed vertices of elongate
7 elements of an adjacent hoop, further including a tubular graft member disposed
8 circumferentially adjacent the tubular stent.

1 11. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein
2 said stent is comprised of a shape memory material.

1 12. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein
2 said shape memory material is nitinol.

1 13. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein
2 said stent is comprised of an elastic material.

1 14. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein
2 said elastic material is stainless steel.

1 15. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein
2 said graft covers diamond shaped openings in said stent.

1 16. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10 wherein
2 said graft covers diamond shaped openings in said stent and is attached to said stent by
3 ligature loops.

1 17. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 16, wherein
2 said ligature loops also form connections between abutting apices of said stent.

1 18. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein
2 the graft is disposed on the outer surface of the stent.

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4 said ~~hoop~~-tubular stent, each of said separate and distinct hoops comprising a plurality of
5 elongate elements, with pairs of said elongate elements meeting one another and forming
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2 said graft covers diamond shaped openings in said stent.

1 16. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10 wherein
2 said graft covers diamond shaped openings in said stent and is attached to said stent by
3 ligature loops.

1 17. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 16, wherein
2 said ligature loops also form connections between abutting apices of said stent.

1 18. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein
2 the graft is disposed on the outer surface of the stent.

1 19. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein
2 the graft is disposed on the inner surface of the stent.

1 20. (Previously Added) A stent according to claim 10, wherein said graft
2 member including a drug substance disposed thereon.

1 21. (Previously Added) A stent according to claim 10, wherein said graft
2 comprises polyester or polytetrafluoroethylene.

1 22. (Previously Added) A method of reinforcing a body vessel using a tubular
2 sheath disposed between an entry location in a body and an implantation location, said method
3 comprising the steps of:

4 a. providing stent-graft combination as recited in claim 10;

5 b. compressing the stent-graft combination into its compressed
6 configuration;

7 c. inserting the compressed stent-graft combination into the tubular sheath;

8 d. delivering the compressed stent-graft combination through the tubular
9 sheath to the implantation location; and

10 e. withdrawing the sheath while holding the stent at the implantation
11 location within the vessel and expanding the stent-graft combination within the implantation
12 location as the sheath is withdrawn by permitting the self-expandable stent-graft combination,
13 as the constraint of the sheath is removed, to return to said expanded configuration;

14 whereby the stent-graft combination is securely disposed in the implanted state
15 against said body vessel.

1 23. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 22, wherein the stent of
2 said stent-graft combination is comprised of a shape memory material.

1 24. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 23, wherein said shape
2 memory material is nitinol.

1 25. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 22, wherein the stent of
2 said stent-graft combination is comprised of an elastic material.

1 26. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 25, wherein said elastic
2 material is stainless steel.

1 27. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 24, wherein step b is
2 performed at a reduced temperature such that the nitinol is not elastic.

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1 28. (Previously Added) Method of implanting a prosthesis at an implementation
2 site in a body lumen comprising providing a stent graft combination as recited in claim 10, said
3 stent-graft combination having first and second configurations the diameter of said stent or
4 prosthesis in said first configuration being smaller than in said second configuration, said
5 method comprising introducing said stent or prosthesis, while in its first configuration into a
6 body lumen in communication with said implantation site but remote therefrom, transporting
7 said stent-graft combination to said implantation site and causing or permitting said stent-graft
8 combination to assume its second configuration, whereby it is retained at said implantation site.
